

# THE PEOPLE'S PITZER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

TPP Newsletter 11/29-12/3/2021

## Weekly Spotlight



According to the recently published National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement report from the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education (IDHE), [there was a notable increase in Pitzer students' voter turnout](#) in the 2020 presidential election in contrast to the 2016 election.

Students' voting rates increased from 56.9 percent to 79.7 percent, well above the national average of 66 percent.

IDHE Director Nancy Thomas "attribute[s] this high level of participation to many factors, including student activism on issues such as racial injustice, global climate change, and voter suppression, as well as increased efforts by educators to reach students and connect them to the issues and to voting resources."

Pitzer student voting rates earned us a platinum seal award (awarded to only 46 other colleges) from the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, an initiative of Civic Nation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating equitable change.

According to Managing Director of the CEC, Tricia Morgan, this good news about Pitzer's voter turnout reminds us that while voting and developing policy won't solve all issues, civic engagement is a powerful tool at our disposal.

## Volunteers Needed



### Debating for Democracy Letter Writing Competition

Every year, Pitzer works with Project Pericles to promote civic engagement within higher education through a letter-writing project: [Debating for Democracy \(D4D\)](#). Project Pericles, one of the Community Engagement Center's community partners, is a vibrant consortium of colleges and universities that promotes civic

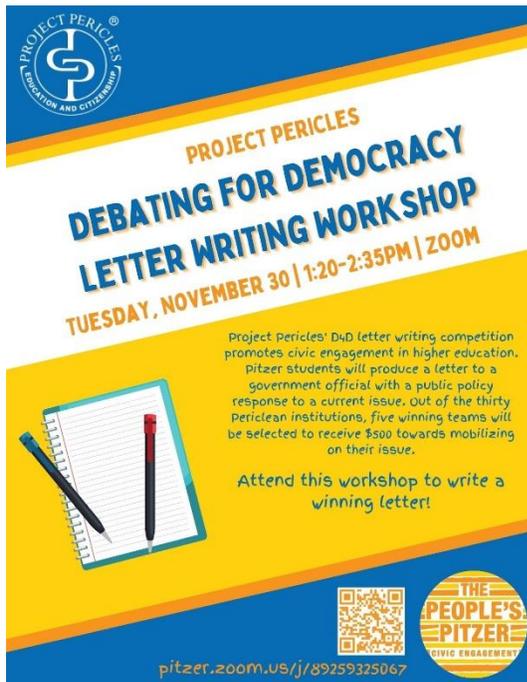
engagement within higher education.

D4D is an annual competition where students research, develop, and advocate their opinions and positions on current public policy issues.

Pitzer students will produce a co-written (two Pitzer/non-senior students minimum), two page letter to a federal or state elected official advocating for a legislative response to a current issue. The primary goal of D4D is to inspire and encourage all participants to become successful and resourceful advocates in their community. Out of the thirty Periclean institutions, five winning teams will be selected to receive \$500 towards mobilizing on their issue back at their home college the following year.

Interested in participating? Learn more about this competition by reviewing the Request for Proposals (RFP) [here](#) and our rubric based on the RFP to guide letter writing [here](#). Letters are due in March 2022 but we recommend getting started as soon as possible – winter break would be a great time to start! You can view previous winning letters [here](#) as well as a helpful infographic we have created [here](#). TPP will host a letter-writing workshop later this month to assist students interested in participating. If you need more information, please reach out to [aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu](mailto:aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu).

## November Events



The poster features the Project Pericles logo at the top left, which includes the text 'PROJECT PERICLES' and 'EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP'. The main title is 'DEBATING FOR DEMOCRACY LETTER WRITING WORKSHOP' in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, it says 'TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 1:20-2:35PM | ZOOM'. There is an illustration of a notepad and two pens. A QR code is located at the bottom left, and a circular logo for 'THE PEOPLE'S PITZER CIVIC ENGAGEMENT' is at the bottom right. The URL 'pitzer.zoom.us/j/89259325067' is at the bottom left.

Project Pericles' D4D letter writing competition promotes civic engagement in higher education. Pitzer students will produce a letter to a government official with a public policy response to a current issue. Out of the thirty Periclean institutions, five winning teams will be selected to receive \$500 towards mobilizing on their issue.

Attend this workshop to write a winning letter!

pitzer.zoom.us/j/89259325067

**Tomorrow, November 30 @ 1:20pm: Debating for Democracy Letter Writing Workshop**  
[Virtual Event](#)

Join The People's Pitzer for a Debating for Democracy Letter Writing Workshop.

Every year, Pitzer works with Project Pericles to promote civic engagement within higher education through a letter-writing project: [Debating for Democracy \(D4D\)](#). D4D is an annual competition where students research, develop, and advocate their opinions and positions on current public policy issues. Pitzer students will produce a co-written (two Pitzer/non-senior students minimum), two page letter to a federal or state elected official advocating for a legislative response to a

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**Did you miss Preparing for Civil Service in California: Workshop with Dana Nothnagel** on November 18th? Watch the recording [here](#). The workshop featured Dana Nothnagel (PZ '19), Program Coordinator for the California Grants Portal, a new website focused on making over \$20 billion in State funding opportunities accessible to all Californians. Dana helped Claremont students understand the impacts they can have on the lives of 40 million Californians through a career in California's capital.

## Save the Date

TPP events will conclude for the semester at the end of November. Thank you so much to all those who attended. Please let us know if you have ideas for future events or would like to get involved with TPP over winter break by contacting TPP student coordinator [aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu](mailto:aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu) or CEC Managing Director [tricia\\_morgan@pitzer.edu](mailto:tricia_morgan@pitzer.edu). Check our [website](#) for additional information and updates.

## Connect with Us

Want to hear more from The People's Pitzer? Join our email list [here](#). Want to get involved in the Community Engagement Center in other ways? Fill out our volunteer interest form [here](#).

Follow our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) (@ThePeoplesPitzer) for updates, and be sure to check out our [website](#) to see all our resources. Keep an eye out for future newsletters as well!

Further questions? Comments? Concerns? For more information about The People's Pitzer, as well as how to get involved in our team, contact Alaina Neuburger at [aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu](mailto:aneuburg@students.pitzer.edu).